

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* on sale this month**



Worcester, Mass. (August 2, 2019) A highlight of New England's holiday performance calendar, *WGBH presents A Christmas Celtic Sojourn with Brian O'Donovan* returns to The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, December 17 at 7:30 pm. Tickets go on sale to members on Monday, August 5 at 10 am and to the public on Friday, August 16 at 10 am.

Brian O'Donovan's "A Celtic Sojourn" has entertained and enlightened radio audiences since 1986. For the last 16 years, the Christmas-time live version of the show has drawn on Celtic, Pagan and Christian traditions to celebrate the music of the season. First launched in 2003, *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* reflects the compelling and diverse offerings of the weekly and national radio programs and features a spectacular line up of top-level musicians, singers and dancers from around the Celtic world.

Music director and multi-instrumentalist, Seamus Egan returns, and pianist/harpist Maeve Gilchrist fills the role as assistant music director. Long-time band member Chico Huff brings his distinct bass. Owen Marshall makes his third appearance on guitar/bouzouki/harmonium. And Christmas would not be the same without the cello gravitas of Natalie Haas.

Making his debut in the house band this year will be Nashville based percussionist Jordan Perlson. Two generations of extraordinary Irish fiddlers will match up when Liz Carroll returns for the first time in over 10 years, joined by young Haley Richardson. Olov Johansson of the super Scandinavian group Väsen will join the show on that unique and most Swedish of instruments, the nyckelharpa.

Young Scottish phenomenon, Siobhan Miller will be a featured singer this year. Siobhan will be joined on stage by Newfoundlander, Matthew Byrne. Matthew has performed with Celtic Sojourn in the past, and most recently was in concert with his brother as part of the Burren Backroom Series. These wonderful voices will combine with host Brian O'Donovan, his wife, Lindsay, and Gilchrist, and will bring particularly strong harmony singing to this year's show, along with, of course, individual performances throughout.

The dance program is still in development, but as is the established tradition, the kids from The Harney Academy of Irish Dance from Walpole will return with their special brand of Christmas joy.

Artistically directed again by Paula Plum for the 17th straight year, this promises to be one of the most exciting *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* presentations yet.

Tickets to *WGBH presents A Christmas Celtic Sojourn with Brian O'Donovan* start at \$45. Discounts are available to members of The Hanover Theatre, children and groups of 10 or more. Tickets are available online at TheHanoverTheatre.org, by phone at 877.571.SHOW (7469) or at The Hanover Theatre box office located at 2 Southbridge Street in downtown Worcester. For more information on group sales, contact Daniella Marie at 508.471.1763 or daniella@thehanovertheatre.org.

Save more the day tickets go on sale!

A Christmas Celtic Sojourn joins over 20 new shows on sale throughout the month of August. Save \$5-\$12 on every ticket you buy (from 10am - midnight) the day they go on sale to the public. Handling fees are waived ONLY on the day each show goes on public sale. Sign up online at TheHanoverTheatre.org/AugustMania to receive a reminder when your favorite shows go on sale. Become a member for as little as \$75 and get first access to single tickets plus save 10% off on Member Mondays throughout August. All price levels are available in the orchestra when tickets go on sale. When they're gone, they're gone, so don't delay! Handling fees are not waived on Member Mondays.

About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts

The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than two million patrons with world-class performances and headlining acts including Broadway hits ("Jersey Boys," "Kinky Boots," "Something Rotten!"), comedians (Dave Chappelle, Jay Leno, Jerry Seinfeld), musical acts (Neil Young, Aretha Franklin, John Legend, Tony Bennett) and everything in between ("A Christmas Carol," Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Alton Brown, Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson). POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the top theatres in the world. After 11 seasons, the award-winning, historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class performing arts venue, acting as a catalyst for the economic development of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre's facilities at 551 Main Street house function spaces, offices and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory. Worcester Center for Performing Arts, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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